

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NSC-07 NSCE-00 IO-03

CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 SP-02 PRS-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2551

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T PARIS 22410

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, FR, UN

SUBJECT: KHMER CHARGE IN PARIS

REF: (A) PARIS 18231 (EXDIS); (B) PHNOM PENH 12609

(LIMDIS); (C) PARIS 21748; (D) PARIS 21752

1. EMBOFF GAVE TO KHMER MESSAGE THAT "NEW FACTS" WOULD BE CONTAINED IN LETTER BEING HAND-CARRIED FOR ARRIVAL BY SEPTEMBER 21 (REF B). ON EVENING SEPTEMBER 21 LONG BORET CALLED EMBOFF TO SAY LETTER HAD BEEN DELIVERED, AND IT REPORTED THAT IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION KHMER PROBLEM BEFORE UN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR IRWIN THAT GOF LOOKED WITH DISFAVOR ON NOMINATION OF KENG VANNSAK TO PARIS. LONG BORET WISHED CONFIRMATION THAT FRENCH HAD INDEED RAISED THE MATTER OF KHMER CHARGE AT SUCH A HIGH LEVEL WITH USG OR WHETHER THIS WAS ERRONEOUS INFORMATION WHIPPED UP BY THOSE INTRIGUING AGAINST KENG.

2. EMBOFF ASSURED LONG BORET THAT GOF/GKR BILATERAL MATTER SUCH AS NOMINATION OF A CHARGE FOR PARIS WAS NOT
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DISCUSSED. ON THE SURFACE IT WAS CLEAR THAT IT WAS A

MATTER WHICH THE FRENCH WOULD NOT RAISE, AND THE U.S. WOULD REFUSE TO DISCUSS IF RAISED. LONG BORET SEEMED REASSURED, AND SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED WITH THE NOMINATION SINCE IT HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE CABINET. HOWEVER, DOEUNG HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT HE WILL NOT BE LEAVING PARIS NOW, AND WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT LONG BORET HAS DECIDED AT LEAST TO DELAY THE SHIFT TO KENG.

3. IT SEEMS THAT KHMER INTRIGUERS HAVE GRATED ONTO THE REPORT OF THE FRANCO/US CONVERSATION ABOUT THE KHMER PROBLEM BEFORE THE UN (REF C) FRENCH ATTITUDES TOWARD KENG SUCH AS THOSE GIVEN TO EMBOFF BY CURRENT KHMER CHARGE HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG (REF D). SINCE HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG SEEMED PLEASED TO GO TO NEW YORK -- EVEN THOUGH HE NO DOUBT IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS SUCCESSOR -- WE CANNOT DETERMINE THE DEGREE TO WHICH HE MAY BE INVOLVED. SINCE HE WAS REPORTING TO EMBOFF FRENCH VIEWS WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY BROUGHT BACK FROM PHNOM PENH, THERE IS PROBABLY NO LACK OF INTRIGUERS THERE ALSO.

4. EMBASSIES PARIS AND PHNOM PENH BOTH AGREED THAT U.S. SHOULD STAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM (REFS A AND B). WE SHALL CONTINUE TO ASSERT THAT THIS IS GOF/GKR MATTER IN WHICH U.S. IS NOT INVOLVED. KENG VANNSAK WILL CALL ON EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 24. ANY FURTHER CLARIFICATION PHNOM PENH CAN PROVIDE PRIOR TO THAT TIME WOULD BE HELPFUL.

5. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS MAY WISH TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONVINCE LONG BORET THAT U.S. NOT INVOLVED DESPITE LETTER TO CONTRARY FROM GKR FOREIGN MINISTRY.
IRWIN

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NNN

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